

# Arizona Early Childhood Initiative

## *Creating Inclusive Settings and Opportunities*

### Arizona Early Childhood Inclusion Coalition

#### UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

- **August 2005**, the Arizona Early Childhood Inclusion Coalition was formed in North Carolina consisting of representatives from the Arizona Department of Education, Childcare Bureau, Arizona Head Start Association, DES AzEIP, the Arizona Division of Early Childhood (DEC), Northern Arizona University, and a representative of the Parent Information Network (PINS), College. A preliminary vision and mission statement was developed and the group determined that more stakeholders were needed. As a result, group representatives identified our desire to engage in dialogue and share resources.
- **October 4<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**, meetings were held with identified stakeholders that were considered funding sources. Information was shared about each organization. The group felt it was important to have an understanding of each organization and how they provide services to children and families to assist in future collaboration. Information was inserted into a matrix to serve as a foundational source of information for the group. Further discussed the purpose of the coalition and shared a suggested mission statement developed by the group in North Carolina.
- **January 11, 2006**. School Readiness Board Presentation by Mary Warren. Created Vision and Mission Statements. Group consensus was to move in a direction of having more ECIC members participate in various committees and report back to ECIC (some members are already on various School Readiness Board committees). Plan is to invite original members back to the table and invite additional organizations to the table. Next step is to further set the agenda and direction of the group and further determine the challenges to inclusion and develop strategies to address those challenges.
- **April 5, 2006**. Expanded group membership and brought back original members/stakeholders. Reviewed vision/mission statement. Expanded on barriers from August 2005 meeting and developed initial strategies.
- **May 2006**. Strategies subcommittee met to determine overlapping strategies of ECIC and School Readiness Board (SRB). ECIC met May 19th. Developed an Operational Structure and Action Plan.
- **October 2006**. Updates from the group. Generated list of talking points to use when communicating with others about the work or focus of the Coalition. Draft of 5 points to be developed at the next meeting.
- **January 2007**. Updates from group; updates from School Readiness Board committee members. Reviewed draft of talking points; clarified purpose of a talking points document would be used for.
- **April 2007**. Draft inclusion talking points brochure finalized to submit for printshop design. Presentations from The Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (Prop 203 “First Things First”) and Parent Information Network Specialists. Updates regarding State Performance Plan activities from Part B and Part C special education programs and from School Readiness Board Professional Development Articulation Committee. “Little” ECIC group formed with the following volunteers: Arnold Ramirez, Arizona Head Start Association, Karen Nelson Hunter, Department of Economic Security(DES)/Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP); Val Andrews and Amy Corriveau, Arizona Department of Education, Early Childhood Special Education; Jo Davis, Sunrise

Preschools; Karen Hearn, Scottsdale School District Community Education Programs; Brad Willis, Department of Economic Security(DES)/Child Care Administration; Jennifer Johnson, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. This committee was formed to determine the future of the ECIC group and what direction the group would move in.

- **June 2007.** "Little" ECIC group met. Sharing Information on Professional Development; Creating Website that would include inclusion data in Arizona; dialogue of future of organization, how to organize future meetings and tentative goals for FY08 were discussed. Scheduled next meeting.